

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants add claim 21-26. Thus, claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Support for new claims 21-26 may be found at least on page 3, lines 11 - 16; page 4, line 29 - page 5, line 3; page 8, lines 1-14; and in Figs 1 and 3-5. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Jean-Gilles and Pwu in the February 8 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,654,735 to Eichstaedt et al. (hereinafter "Eichstaedt"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.


As discussed during the personal interview, Eichstaedt fails to disclose, or even suggest, "monitoring e-mail messages directed to the user," as recited in claims 1 and 12. Rather, Eichstaedt only discloses monitoring the user's outbound communication streams (see, e.g., Title, Abstract, C1/L59 - C2/L1, C2/L5-12, C2/L45-47, C3/L37-40, C5/L20-25, C5/L47-49, C5/L63-C6/L2, C7/L15-18, C7/L52-55, C8/L9-12, C9/L41-43, C10/L50-52, C10/L64-65, C11/L11-13, and C11/L25-29). Thus, the messages monitored in Eichstaedt cannot reasonably be considered directed to the user (i.e., inbound) when they are in fact outbound communications being authored by the user.

Because Eichstaedt fails to disclose, or even suggest, "monitoring e-mail messages directed to the user," claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Eichstaedt. Further, claims 2-11 and 13-20 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 12 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

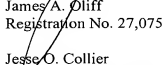
In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-26.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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